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COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

May 18, 2020

Steven Dillingham Director U.S. Census Bureau 4600 Silver Hill Road Washington, DC 20233

Dear Director Dillingham,

I write to request additional information from the Census Bureau regarding the Bureau's April 22, 2020 announcement of an experimental Household Pulse Survey to track temporal trends in social and economic in households across the country over the next three months.

According to the announcement, the results of this survey aim provide useful information to the public, businesses, and policymakers for understanding how changes in business operations, employment, hours, and the availability of consumer goods and services are impacting American life. I have serious concerns regarding how this information will be used once it is collected. That is why I am seeking more information. I have additional concerns related to how the collection of this information will be protected, and am eager to understand how the information will be disseminated across government agencies.

Please provide answers to the following questions by June 1, 2020:

- My understanding is that data collected from these surveys is planned to be posted weekly beginning in mid-May and is expected to include estimates for all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, as well as for the 50 most populated Metropolitan Statistical Areas, all in real-time. Where will this information be posted, who will have access to it, and how long will it be available?
- According to your announcement, the information gathered from this survey is meant to help inform policymakers. As we continue working to craft legislation to respond to COVID-19, how and when do you plan to present this information to Congress?

- Questions in the survey touch on employment, health, food security, and education issues, all issues that the Appropriations Committee seeks to address. As a member of the House Appropriations Committee charged with funding the Census Bureau and the agencies which helped craft this survey, what plans do you have to share this information with the Committee and when will you do so?
- What funding accounts were used to allocate the \$1.2 million toward the Household Pulse and Small Business surveys?
- Does the Bureau have plans to transmit the information gathered from these surveys to State and Local governments?

Thank you for your time and commitment to ensuring the that Census bureau serves the American people and the country well.

Sincerely,

Rosa L. DeLauro

Member of Congress